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# Junior Future Planning Night

— Spring 2017 —

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**Welcome,  
Class of 2018!**

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## Tonight's Agenda

Future Planning at Rising Tide

The College Search & Application Processes

The Financial Aid & Scholarship Process

Alternatives to a Four-Year College

Next Steps: Spring & Summer

Questions & Answers

## Handouts Available

Presentation slides

College and Future Planning Handbook

Parent Brag Sheet

Rising Tide School Profile

All handouts will also be available on the [Rising Tide website](#).

# Future Planning at Rising Tide

Goals of Future Planning

Junior Year Activities

Senior Year Activities

Senior Year Courses

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## Goals of Future Planning at Rising Tide

- Personal Exploration
  - Interests, values, skills, and goals
- College/Academic Readiness
  - Awareness, exploration, and experience
- Career/Workforce Readiness
  - Awareness, exploration, and experience
- Alternative Programs (Gap Year, Military)
  - Seek and utilize reputable resources
- Financial Wellness
  - Budgeting, cost-benefit analysis, financial aid

## Future Planning at Rising Tide: Junior Year

- Individual student meetings
  - Get to know students and their goals
  - Build a college list and identify resources
  - Review college and/or career profiles
- Advisory & grade level activities
  - Google Classroom resources (Throughout)
  - Review transcripts (September)
  - College representative visits (September - November; April - June)
  - PSAT/NMSQT (October)
  - Panels: Teacher (October), Alumni, (January), and Alternatives to College (February)
  - College visit planning (February)
  - Interest and career exploration (March)
  - Understanding college applications (March)
  - Resume writing (April)
  - Boston National College Fair (May)
  - College application prep (June)

## Future Planning at Rising Tide: Senior Year

- Individual student meetings
  - Finalizing college lists
  - Navigate application forms and requirements
  - Review essays, resumes, and recommendations
  - Identify scholarships and other financial resources
- Advisory & grade level activities
  - Google Classroom resources (Throughout)
  - Review transcripts (September)
  - College representative visits (September - November)
  - College Planning Night & Panel (September) and Financial Aid Night (October)
  - Future Fridays (September - February)
  - Panels: Teacher (October), Alumni, (January), and Alternatives to College (February)
  - Financial wellness (March - May)
  - Transitioning to college (May)

## Senior Year Courses & Transcripts

- Juniors will receive course selection forms on March 22nd
- Take the most challenging courses for which you are ready
- Be mindful of your future plans
  - Suggested courses for certain majors or programs
- Remain aware of college-specific requirements
  - Students will naturally fulfill minimum state college and UMass requirements
  - Most common roadblock: World Language requirements
- GPAs are unweighted and students are not ranked
  - Junior year GPA will be the the last recalculation before applications are submitted
  - Some colleges will recalculate GPAs to focus on “core courses”
  - Student rankings are increasingly less common at high schools

## The College Search & Application Processes

The College Search Process

SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests

State University GPA/Score Scale

UMass GPA/Score Scale

College Applications

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# The College Search Process

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- Use a variety of resources
  - College Scorecard
  - Big Future/College Board
  - MassCIS
  - Niche
  - Cappex
  - College websites
- Be a discerning consumer
  - Average GPA and test scores
  - Percentage of need met vs average award amount
  - College rankings or ratings (Colleges That Change Lives vs U.S. News)



**"The college in Maine has a better curriculum,  
but the college in New York has better pizza."**

# The College Search Process

- Create a comprehensive list
  - Mix of likely, best fit, and reach schools
  - At least one in-state option - other than UMass Amherst
  - Track specific requirements (courses, testing, recommendations)
- Visit, visit, visit!
  - Spring and fall open house programs
  - Representative visits at Rising Tide
  - Special visit programs: Interviews, shadow days, overnights
  - Can't visit? Keep in touch virtually, connect at college fairs, and/or tour a comparable school nearby
  - Expressions of interest are often reviewed during the application process

## The SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests

- Compare and Contrast
  - SAT: Reasoning, tougher reading sections, no science section
  - ACT: Content, faster paced, science section
  - Both: Optional essays, you are not penalized for incorrect/blank answers
  - Use online practice tests to determine the best fit
  - Colleges accept and review both tests equally
- Timeline
  - Fall SAT: May, June, August, October, November, December
  - Fall ACT: April, June September, October, December
- Preparation
  - Khan Academy (SAT) personalized practice tests
  - Test prep courses or tutoring
- Fee Waivers
- Superscoring and score choice

## MA State University Standards

- All Rising Tide students complete the minimum course requirements
- Minimum 3.0 GPA for freshman applicants
- For students who fall below a 3.0 GPA, MA state universities use a sliding scale:

Average GPA	Combined SAT Score	Composite ACT Score
2.51 - 2.99	990	19
2.41 - 2.50	1030	20
2.31 - 2.40	1070	21
2.21 - 2.30	1110	22
2.11 - 2.20	1140	23
2.00 - 2.10	1180	24

## UMass Standards

- All Rising Tide students complete the minimum course requirements
- Minimum 3.0 GPA for freshman applicants
- For students who fall below a 3.0 GPA, the UMass campuses use a sliding scale:

Average GPA	Combined SAT Score	Composite ACT Score
2.51 - 2.99	1030	20
2.41 - 2.50	1070	21
2.31 - 2.40	1110	22
2.21 - 2.30	1140	23
2.11 - 2.20	1180	24
2.00 - 2.10	1220	25

## College Applications

- Common Requirements:
  - Application form (Common App, Coalition, or institutional)
  - Essay(s)
  - Transcript
  - Teacher recommendations - aim for 2 "core academic" teachers; no more than 4
  - Counselor recommendation/school report (Ms. Foster)
  - SAT and/or ACT scores
- Varied Requirements:
  - Supplemental application forms (via the Common Application)
  - Program-specific materials (audition videos, portfolio, etc)
  - Resume
  - Interviews



## College Applications

- Each college reviews students within the context of their high school
  - School Profile
- Applications are often reviewed by geographic region
  - Representatives who visit are usually the ones reading Rising Tide applications
- Rising Tide students have fared well
  - Feedback from alumni about academic readiness
- Application Program Options
  - Early Action vs Early Decision
  - Regular & Rolling Decision
  - Open enrollment
  - Priority applications

	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED) I & II	Regular Decision (RD)	Rolling Admission (RA)
Application Timeline	November, December	ED I: November, ED II: January	Varies - usually January/February	Varies
Decision Timeline	December, January	ED I: December; ED II: February	Sent in batches, usually in March	Sent as they are made
Deposit Date*	May 1st	At the time of admission	May 1st	May 1st
Binding Attendance	No	Yes, if admitted	No	No
Limits Other Apps	No - you can apply to multiple schools via EA	Yes - you can only apply to one school via ED I and only one school via ED II	No - you can apply to multiple schools via RD	No - you can apply to multiple schools via RA
Availability	Not offered by all colleges	Not offered by all colleges	Offered by most colleges, usually in addition to EA or ED	Offered by some colleges, perhaps in addition to EA or ED

# The Financial Aid & Scholarship Processes

Federal & Institutional Aid  
Scholarships

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## Federal and Institutional Aid

- Start NOW
  - Net Price Calculators
  - FAFSA4caster
  - Scholarship search profiles
  - 2016 tax documents
- Common Financial Aid Forms
  - FAFSA - Federal aid
  - CSS Profile - Institutional aid
  - Institutional forms - Often in addition to the FAFSA and CSS Profile
- “I don’t think I’ll get anything” = Leaving money on the table
- Meet with financial aid counselors at each college

# Scholarships

- Scholarships
  - Local scholarships posted in the Future Planning Google Classroom
  - Create online profiles now and save scholarships of interest
  - Explore opportunities offered by your employer, religious and cultural organizations, and your local library
  - Deadlines vary widely
- Resources
  - [Raise.me](https://www.raise.me)
  - [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)
  - [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com)
  - [Unigo.com](https://www.unigo.com)
  - [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
  - [Petersons.com](https://www.petersons.com)
  - [Bigfuture.collegeboard.org](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
  - [Goodcall.com/scholarships](https://www.goodcall.com/scholarships)

## Alternatives to Four-Year Colleges

## Alternatives to Four-Year Colleges

- Community and Two-Year Colleges
  - Mass Transfer and strong articulation agreements across the state
- Career and Vocational Programs
  - Apprenticeships, certificate programs, post-graduate paths at vocational high schools
- Gap Year and Post-Graduate Programs
  - Structured and unstructured programs - have a plan or goal in mind
- Military Enlistment
  - The ASVAB can help to identify career pathways within each branch
- Online Degree Programs
  - Non-profit colleges

## Next Steps

Spring 2017

Summer 2017

Final Thoughts

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## Next Steps: This Spring

- Determine which path is best
  - Long-term goals, college majors, financially feasible colleges
- Develop or refine a list of colleges
- Visit colleges for open houses, tours, and/or information sessions
  - Talk to admissions staff, students, professors, and financial aid counselors
- Register to take spring tests
  - SAT, ACT, and/or SAT Subject Tests
- Talk to advisors and teachers about course selection and letters of recommendation

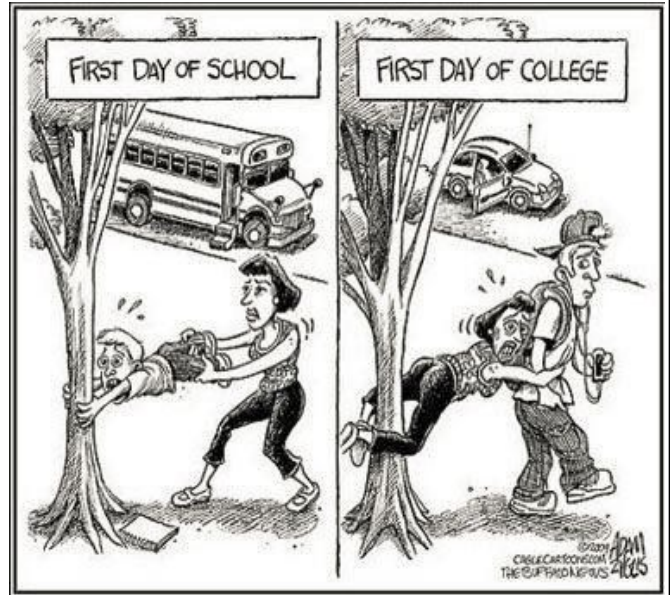
## Next Steps: Summertime (Not *Too* Easy)

- Any activity is better than no activity
- Jobs and internships
- Volunteer activities
- Summer courses
- Summer camps and programs
  - Pre-college programs
- Application Prep
  - Write drafts of essays and resume - share, revise, repeat
  - Common Application available in August
  - Keep visiting campuses



## Final Thoughts

- Avoid the noise.
- Check (some) of your opinions.
- Be encouraging but honest.
- Trust the process.
- Enjoy the ride!



**Thank You!**

**Questions?**

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